MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 OCTOBER 1981

Gulf Conflict

Iranian Attack on Kuwait -- KUNA reported that Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that three Iranian planes attacked the oil storage center at Umm al-'Is, north of the Kuwaiti capital, on 1 October. He said part of the center had been destroyed but the fire had been brought under control. He added that he had summoned Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait 'Ali Shams Ardakani and presented a note to him protesting what he called a new stage in Iranian aggression against Kuwait.

Iraq-Iran Fighting -- INA transmitted an Iraqi Armed Forces communique that said Iraqi fighter planes had downed an Iranian plane in a dogfight over Abadan. The communique also reported successful air attacks against oil pumping stations at Bushehr. An earlier INA report said an Iraqi military spokesman had described how in the weekend fighting in the Abadan region Iraqi forces "mowed down the human hordes" thrown at the Iraqi positions, resulting in unusually high casualties for the Iranians.

Iran

Statements on Crash, Death Toll -- Tehran radio broadcast statements by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and the Provisional Presidential Council expressing grief and condolences over the deaths in an air crash of four defense chiefs. Indicating that the cause of the 29 September crash is still unknown, the Presidential Council statement said an official investigation of the incident is underway. While neither statement blamed the crash on any persons or organizations, both called on the armed forces to maintain and increase their efforts in the war with Iraq. Citing a funeral organizer, AFP reported that more than 70 people were killed in the crash. It also said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI had reported that the military commanders of Khuzestan, Dezful and Khuninshahr were among the casualties.

Security Situation -- AFP reported that a 15-minute gun battle in central Tehran between Mojahedin and security forces resulted in the deaths of three Mojahedin. A revolution guards corps communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, claimed that another 20 Mojahedin had been arrested or killed in operations against seven of their centers. Another corps communique, also carried by the radio, announced that 45 members of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq had been arrested in 30 separate raids. Later, the radio said several Kurdish rebels in the Kamyaran area were killed by revolution guards, while the clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan said 57 soldiers and revolution guards were killed in a 12-hour battle with Kurdish forces. Tehran and Mashhad radios noted the assassinations of two Hezbollahi in Hamadan and Bojnurd, respectively.

Lebanon

The Voice of Lebanon radio reported that four people were killed and dozens were injured when a car bomb exploded near a Fatah office in Western Beirut. The Chrsitian border-enclave Voice of Hope radio had earlier noted that the Front for the Liberation of Lebanon From Foreigners -- the organization that claimed responsibility for other recent bombings -- told ORIENT LE JOUR that it would direct future attacks against Palestinian and Syrian officials and continue its struggle until there are no foreigners left alive on Lebanese soil.

Egypt

President Anwar as-Sadat, in a speech braodcast live by Cairo radio, told the closing session of the National Democratic Party congress that despite Saudi Arabia's verbal attacks and plots against Egypt, he supports the Saudis' "right" to obtain AWACS aircraft. He said that in light of Saudi Arabia's oil policy and the importance of its investments in U.S. economy, it is the "best U.S. friend in the region" and should have the AWACS. "What kind of conduct is this by the United States with its best friends?" he asked rhetorically. "If the Saudis do not say this," he added, "then I will say it." As-Sadat also disclosed that Egypt expelled Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov because he had personally received one of the two Soviet journalists involved in plotting to foment sectarian disturbances. Asserting that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is "playing a dangerous game," As-Sadat said that if the Libyans took any action against Sudan, Egypt would support Sudan "the very next moment."

Saudi Arabia

According to the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said in reply to a question asked him at a London conference on "Oil and Money in the Eighties" that if the United States fails to sell AWACS aircraft to the Kingdom it "would change Riyadh's moderate policy in the world oil market."

Gulf Affairs

Reports by KUNA and GULF NEWS AGENCY indicate that Kuwait is continuing its efforts to persuade the five other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to establish relations with socialist bloc countries. KUNA reported that at the start of a tour of GCC countries a Kuwaiti envoy delivered a message in At-Ta'if to Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz dealing with the Kuwaiti amir's recent visit to four East European states. According to GULF NEWS AGENCY, the envoy later arrived in Bahrain after stopping over in Muscat.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PAKISTAN'S DENIAL ON ARMING OF REBELS RIDICULED

LD010636 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 1 Sep 81

[Text] Kabul, 30 Sep (BAKHTAR) -- The political observer of BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY writes concerning the recent claims of Islamabad:

The Islamabad authorities, while commenting on the recent confessions of Anwar as-Sadat concerning the U.S. purchase of Soviet-made arms from Egypt and sending them by U.S. planes to Pakistan for use by the counter-revolutionary bands of Afghanistan, have shamelessly rejected the matter.

Highly embarrassed by the confessions of their Egyptian colleague, Anwar as-Sadat, and imagining wrongly that they can deceive and mislead the world public opinion, they claim that they do not have any proof that the United States has supplied arms to the counter-revolution of Afghanistan through the territory of Pakistan. This is a clear lie that nobody in the world would take seriously.

Let us see what is the real case. The Egyptian ruler, Anwar as-Sadat, under certain pressures emanating from the internal conditions of Egypt, and in order to prove to the Egyptian nation that while he massacres thousands of Muslims in Egypt or imprisons them, he on the other hand also helps the so-called Muslim combatants of Afghanistan or those real non-Muslim robbers, thinks that he can consolidate his shaky and destabilised political position by such self-exposures.

These frank confessions have placed As-Sadat's accomplices in Washington and Islamabad in a difficult position and has subjected them to much embarrassment.

Although Ronald Reagan, the president of the United States, has said frankly on many occasions that he is helping the counterrevolution of Afghanistan and that he supplies arms to them, Ziaul Haq constantly denies the facts that he helps the counter-revolution of Afghanistan and also that arms are supplied to the counter-revolution of Afghanistan through the territory of Pakistan.

He even denies that training centres for the counter-revolutionary robbers of Afghanistan exist in the Pakistan territory.

For two whole years Ziaul Haq has been denying this bright fact in spite of all the documents, sources and confessions.

But this time the confession of Egyptian collaborator was so authoritative and explicit that all the lies of Ziaul Haq were brought to naught. These confessions brought into the limelight the true face of Reagan, Ziaul Haq, As-Sadat and company.

The Islamabad regime childishly persists in claiming that it is unaware of the provision of arms by the United States to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries but can anyone in his senses believe that the Islamabad rulers could have been ignorant of the airfreighting of arms and ammunitions for Afghan counter-revolution valued at more than 100 million dollars by American planes which on the basis of the unambiguous confession of As-Sadat have been landing almost everyday for the past two years at Pakistani airports? The matter is so simple and the lies of Islamabad rulers so baseless and childish that not much reasoning is needed. Today the whole world knows that there are more than 80 centres in Pakistan for training counter-revolutionary bandits for subsequent export to our country for the massacre of innocent people and carrying out subversive activities.

Even the capitalist press of the U.S.A. has repeatedly reported that the C.I.A. [words indistinct] the piratic activity of Afghan counter-revolutionaries and is arming and financing them with the help of intelligence agencies of Pakistan, China and Israel. There is no one who does not know that the Afghan miscreants, under the umbrellas of support provided by Parkistani generals, resort to murdering and looting the property of the people of Pakistan itself and enjoy in this respect unlimited freedom and immunity. Hundreds of examples may be cited in support of this fact.

The falsehood of Pakistani authorities can delude no one; it is too bright to be concealed by the smoke-screen of the lies and fabrication of Isiamabad generals.

GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTACK REBEL-HELD PAGHMAN MTS

BK291119 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT 29 Sep 81

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Sep (AFP) -- Afghan Government troops aided by Soviet artillery have mounted yet another attack on the rebel-controlled Paghman mountains, 20 km (12 miles) northwest of Kabul and fierce fighting is now raging in that area, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

Paghman, a former summer resort of Afghan kings, had been the scene of the fiercest fighting ever since last month when Moslem insurgents fought a three-day battle with government troops. Several hundred government troops and insurgents were killed in the mountains, diplomatic sources had earlier said.

The latest government operation began on September 23. A large number of Soviet and Afghan troops left for the mountains from army garrisons in Kabul on the same day.

The diplomats here said that government troops were facing resistance from the rebels and until the last report came in on September 27, the government forces had lost at least 10 armoured personnel carriers apparently in rebel rocket attacks. The sources, however, could not give details of casualties. The insurgents, fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, have asked children and women in the area to leave Paghman immediately.

There was, however, no independent confirmation of the reports. The Afghan Embassy here when contacted refused to comment.

Western diplomatic sources said that the city of Gardez in the eastern Paktia Province had fallen to the rebels on September 22-23.

The sources reported a sudden and unusual spurt in air activity on Kabul international airport and said that air transport was much heavier than usual.

The sources confirmed earlier reports that the strategic Panjsher valley was still in rebel hands. The Afghan Government media had claimed that government troops had dislodged the rebels from the valley.

The sources said that the government have succeeded in redrafting less than 15,000 former soldiers since the September 7 call to rejoin the army.

MUJAHIDIN CLAIM ATTACK ON USSR EMBASSY IN KABUL

GF291920 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 27 Sep 81 p 6

[Excerpts] London, 26 Sep (AAP) -- More detailed and reliable reports of the mujahidin attack on the Soviet Embassy have been received. A special correspondent of the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS informed us after an interview with a mujahidin leader that the commercial section of the Soviet Embassy was completely demolished.

News has been received from Qandahar of a citywide strike and demonstration protesting the calling up of former military personnel and the use of force against demonstrators. The commander of the 22 commandos who attacked the Soviet Embassy, (Mohyuddin), said that shortly after dark the mujahidin hid in two groups in the bushes surrounding the embassy. Each group had six rocket launchers. They started the attack at midnight. At first the southwestern wing which housed the commercial section was destroyed. Although Kabul radio denied this report, the city was buzzing with the news. The information caused a surge of enthusiasm among the people. The mujahidin had returned to their posts at 0300.

The Afghan (Government) forces and Russians surrounded all the houses in the area as soon as the attack ended. Every house was searched and dozens of people were sternly interrogated, but no clue of the mujahidin's presence could be found.

At 1600 when hundreds of former military men were brought before the Russians in the cantonments after a house-to-house search, mujahidin groups attacked Soviet and Karmal patrol units in the city. Skirmishes were reported in Char Suq, Herat bazaar and Shikarpur bazaar. Two tanks were destroyed in Herat Darvaza and Char Suq. A jeep was set on fire and its passengers were killed.

FORMER KING ASKED TO HEAD JIHAD AGAINST SOVIETS

BK010832 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 1 Oct 81

[Text] New Delhi, 1 Oct (AFP) -- A group of Afghan insurgent leaders have asked ex-King Zahir Shah to head a jihad (holy war) against the Soviet troops in their country, an Afghan source here said today. They elected him in absentia at a meeting in the Pakistani border district of Pishin, according to the source who operates an Afghan news service in New Delhi. There was no independent confirmation here of the move.

The former king, now living in Rome, was toppled in 1973 by General Mohammed Daud who abolished the monarchy and proclaimed Afghanistan a republic.

At the meeting, insurgent leaders elected General Abdul Wali to be the ex-king's deputy and set up a 20-man council to manage "day-to-day affairs of the jihad," the source said.

In Islamabad, a well-informed source said the Pishin meeting was boycotted by leaders of five major Afghan resistance groups. The source described it as a "purely one-sided show" of the former king's supporters.

RATEBZAD RECEIVED AAPSO SECRETARY GENERAL

LD010638 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 1 Oct 81

[Text] Kabul, 30 Sep (BAKHTAR) -- Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Association of the DRA met with Noori Abdul Razak, secretary general of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization here today. They discussed matters of mutual interest in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

BRIEFS

LEGAL DELEGATION TO USSR -- Nezamoddin Tahzib, president of the DRA Supreme Court, led a lawyers delegation to the USSR today on an official friendly visit. He was invited by L.N. Smirnov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Court. The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by the vice president of the Supreme Court and high-ranking members of judicial and legal authorities, and also by a representative of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department. The delegation is due to visit justice and legal departments and social organizations of the Soviet Union. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 29 Sep 81 LD]

RETURN OF HIJACKERS FROM PAKISTAN REQUESTED

BK300853 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Excerpts] The 20-hour long hijack drama on board an Indian Airlines Boeing came to an end this morning 2 hours before the deadline set by the hijackers when seven Pakistani commandos in a swift operation overpowered them.

A PTI report from Lahore says that after the end of the operation, the Indian ambassador formally asked for the return of five hijackers belonging to the Dal Khalsa. The hijackers are now in custody of the Pakistani authorities.

President Sanjiva Reddy thanked Pakistan President Gen Ziaul Haq for the cooperation of his government in dealing with the hijackers. Punjab Governor Aminuddin Khan and Chief Minister Darbara Singh hailed the release of the passengers and crew of the plane. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs met this morning and reviewed the developments regarding the hijacking.

Plane Returns

BK301250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] The hijacked Indian Airlines Boeing 737 returned to New Delhi a short while ago with all the 46 passengers and crew safe. Home Minister Zail Singh, Civil Aviation Minister A.P. Sharma and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Chandulal Chandrakar were at the airport to receive the passengers.

Talking to newsmen Home Minister Zail Singh thanked the Pakistan Government for its cooperation. He condemned the hijacking as an antinational act.

Asked whether the government has decided not to allow Sikhs to carry their kirpans [dagger] in Indian Airlines flights, Zail Singh said the government is considering the question and a decision in this regard will be taken soon.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Pakistan Government has registered a case against the hijackers.

GANDHI, REDDY GREET PRC LEADERS ON NATIONAL DAY

BK010321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 02400 GMT 1 Oct 81

[Text] The president, Sanjiva Reddy, and the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, have greeted Chinese leaders on the occasion of 32d anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In a message to the Chinese president, Ye Jianying, Mr Reddy said it is India's profound wish that the relations between the two countries should develop in the spirit of mutual understanding and for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

The prime minister, in her message to the Chinese premier, Zhao Ziyang, has expressed the hope that following the progress made during the recent contact between the leaders of the two countries, efforts will continue to improve relations further.

USSR SIGNS CONTRACT TO BUY ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT

BK301120 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] The Soviet Union will buy from India equipment worth 75 million rupees produced by the state-owned heavy engineering corporation, Ranchi, in 1983. The contract was signed last week in Moscow.

INDIAN EXPRESS: EXPECTATIONS FROM GANDHI'S TRIP

BK301445 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Sep 81 p 6

[Article by N. Nihal Singh, former editor of the STATESMAN: "Mrs Gandhi's Safari"]

[Text] It used to be said of the late, and somewhat lamented, President Sukarno of Indonesia that he made state or official visits abroad when things got particularly difficult at home. This is not quite true in Mrs Gandhi's case, but her string of international engagements, taking her first to Southeast Asia, then to Melbourne for the Commonwealth conference, then after a break to Cancun in Mexico and in November to Paris, must be a welcome relief to her from the torrid Antulay issue and the myriad problems of a party that never seems to stop quarrelling.

Foreign visits, with the ceremonials involved, do a leader good back home. There are the flattering photographs, the daily accounts of discussions of high policy, usually laudatory and suitably muted, with hints of great things achieved.

But welcome as her forays will be to her, there is a serious purpose behind them -- or at any rate an effort to use scheduled occasions for implementing India's policy at a particularly difficult time for this country and the region, if not the world. Let us first understand the limitation of Indian policy determined by circumstances and its own, sometimes foolish, actions.

As the recent voting in the United Nations on the retention of the seat for the Pol Pot regime showed, India still stands isolated from the better part of the nonaligned world on this issue. If New Delhi had imagined that other nonaligned countries would queue up to recognise the Heng Samrin regime once it did so, it was mistaken.

A second question that will come up at the United Nations General Assembly is Afghanistan, the Kabul regime having expectedly lost the opening procedural bout. Here India is not so starkly isolated, having distanced itself somewhat from the Soviet position. But among nonaligned countries not entirely tied to Moscow's apron strings, India's stand remains, for the record, basically sympathetic to the Soviet position.

These two issues merely serve to show that India is constrained to follow a pro-Soviet policy on many world issues, impinging in its nonalignment and limiting its options. This may be so for tactical reasons, but the desperate need to balance the special relationship with the Soviets with reasonably cordial relations with the U.S.A. is an option simply not available at present. Indeed, for the Reagan administration, India's voting record at the UN will only serve to confirm its suspicions.

Although New Delhi has wisely chosen to underplay the frostiness in relations with Washington, U.S. policies are likely to harm India's interests, whatever view one takes of the wonders of that marvel, the F-16. The need, therefore, is the greater to seek other balancing factors.

China, of course, would be an ideal counterweight, but with New Delhi and Beijing rightly acting with caution before jumping into border negotiations after the ice breaking visit to Delhi of the Chinese foreign minister, border talks will now follow Mrs Gandhi's session with the Chinese prime minister at Cancun. Meanwhile, the process of dispelling suspicions of the past continues apace, with Indian pilgrims' visit to Kailas and Mansarovar coming as a particularly useful psychological preparation for serious talks on the border.

One option for India is to try to dispel misunderstandings in the nonaligned world. And after the faux pas in postponing at the last minute President Sanjiva Reddy's visit to Sri Lanka and Indonesia for official reasons which failed to convince anyone, it is just as well that Mrs Gandhi is going to Jakarta.

ASEAN countries are not of one mind on the political issues facing the world or even on Kampuchea, although there was universal resentment among them on India's recognition of the Heng Samrin regime. And with Indonesia, hopes of a very close and profitable relationship have remained hopes after relations soured during the Nehru days. To the extent Mrs Gandhi can make Indonesia come alive to the Indian public (the relationship has partly withered through Indian neglect), she would have served a purpose.

The Philippines has been even more remote in India's consciousness. Initially, it was dismissed as a camp follower of the U.S. and hence unworthy of attention. But even though the Philippines has been under a dictatorial dispensation, there is no reason why India should not promote more cordial state relations.

The Commonwealth is at the best of times a curious, though hardy, animal. The usefulness of meetings of heads of government lies largely in the talks that take place outside the conference hall. Mrs Gandhi has already indicated that one of her objectives at the Melbourne meeting would be to try to get the organisation to take a less rigid view of the world than the Reagan administration does.

A majority of members of the Commonwealth would, in fact, tend to question President Reagan's policies in many major world theatres, but since the conference's conclusions are based on consensus, it is difficult to see how the strong support Mrs Margaret Thatcher gives Mr Reagan and the sympathetic attitude of the Fraser government to Washington will enable the emergence of a formula that is even by implication condemnatory of U.S. policies.

At Cancun, the most important meeting Mrs Gandhi will have will be with the Chinese prime minister, but her talk with President Reagan will be interesting from the point of view of the interaction of the chemistry of the two, as a West European leader recently put it. There will be other meetings, but not quite to match these two. And in the broader sense, the main interest will be to see how far the rich North, particularly the U.S.A., is prepared to go in helping the poor South. Any dramatic change is ruled out.

Mrs Gandhi's visit to France is of particular significance. In India's scheme of things, France as well as the EEC in general occupies a special place in balancing relations with the Soviet Union. Her journey in November will take place against the background of a highly successful visit to Delhi of the French foreign minister, Mr Claude Cheysson, who projected an attractive picture of a vibrant socialist France ready to do business with India in any field.

Mr Cheysson had two advantages: His command of English is excellent for a Frenchman and his agile mind is attuned to the problems of the Third World, having dealt with developing countries for years in the EEC at Brussels. Though a social government in France makes it an even more appealing country for India, it is well to recognise that it was Mr Giscard d'Estaing who gave a big push to Indo-French relations during his presidency.

There are few problems in India acquiring lethal weapons or planes from France; the constraints are more on India's side and are financial. Apart from a growing trade relationship which dramatically spilled over into joint collaboration recently, Mrs Gandhi will be seeking a political understanding with France in relation to the subcontinent and the more general problems of relations between the superpowers and the European element in them.

President Francois Mitterrand's basic views on the developing world are sympathetic to it and India expects him to play a helpful role at the Cancun meeting. In trying to turn the tide against the Reagan view of the world, Mrs Gandhi is looking for allies, and she thinks she has one in socialist France.

AGHA SHAHI'S TALKS WITH GROMYKO 'VERY USEFUL'

BK010721 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Oct 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has had wide-ranging talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko on the Afghan issue. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN [APP], quoting informed sources at the United Nations, reports that during their talks, which lasted for 1 hour and 15 minutes, they discussed the situation in west Asia with particular reference to bringing about a political settlement in Afghanistan. They also reviewed bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

Later, Agha Shahi told APP that the talks were very useful.

PRESIDENT HAQ GREETS PRC LEADERS ON NATIONAL DAY

BK010717 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Oct 81

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed his firm belief that relations between Pakistan and China, which have stood the test of time, will continue to gather strength in the spirit of mutual benefit to the two countries. He said this in separate messages of greetings to Hu Yaobang, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, and Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang on the 32d founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Haq said the close and traditional relations between Pakistan and China are based on principles. He commended the glorious progress made by China since the October 1949 revolution and said it is encouraging to China's neighbors and Third World countries. He expressed sincere wishes for continued progress and prosperity for the people of China.

The president attended a reception in Islamabad last night which was hosted by the Chinese ambassador on the eve of his country's national day. Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Gen Sawar Khan, vice chief of Army staff; federal ministers and others also attended the reception.

DETAILS OF RESCUE OF HIJACKED INDIAN PLANE

BK301623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Excerpts] The Indian Boeing 737 aircraft which was hijacked to Pakistan and which was recaptured by Pakistan Army commandos in a daring action this morning has now reached New Delhi along with its passengers and crew. Indian Home Minister Zail Singh, who was present at New Delhi Airport, thanked the Government of Pakistan for its cooperation in containing the situation arising out of the hijacking of the plane. Sixty-seven passengers from the hijacked plane left for New Delhi by a separate plane last night. All five hijackers are at present under the custody of the local authorities. They are: Gajedra Singh, (Sardar Satnam Singh), (Karan Singh), (Tasbin Singh) and (Rajinder Singh).

The Pakistani commandos carried out their successful operation to release the hijacked plane and the passengers 2 hours and 15 minutes before the deadline set by the hijackers. The operation was carried out entirely on the initiative of the Pakistan Government. During the operation, which took place at 0745 this morning [0245 GMT], one hijacker was slightly injured.

According to details of the operation which have been received so far, the SSG [expansion unknown] soldiers, who were entrusted with the task of protecting the hostages, flew into Lahore yesterday shortly before sunset. Using information collected by the Pakistani authorities through their talks with the hijackers and the statements of released passengers to the operational control headquarters which was set up at the airport, a strategy was formulated. The SSG soldiers reviewed the entire situation when the passenbers were served with their meal last night. They also observed the movements of the hijackers. Initially, 0430 this morning was fixed for the operation, but at that time the hijackers were very vigilant and therefore the time was changed to 0730 and it was decided that while breakfast was served to the exhausted passengers a maximum number of hijackers would be called out of the aircraft for talks with the Pakistani authorities. When the passengers were served breakfast, three of the hijackers left the aircraft to talk with the negotiating team. A group of the commandos attacked them swiftly and captured them while another group quickly entered the aircraft. A third group cordoned off the aircraft to deal with any difficult situations. The hijacker who was standing at the doorway of the plane was also overpowered by the commandos. A first hijacker, who was at the rear of the plane, pulled out his dagger and resisted, but he was also overpowered. The entire operation took only 45 seconds and nobody was killed or injured. Later, the Pakistani authorities conducted a thorough search of the hijacked aircraft for any explosives or bombs.

Solution Called Exemplary

BK301044 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq said in Sahiwal today that Pakistan demonstrated an excellent part by upholding the principles in the comity of nations by taking commando actions in releasing the passengers of the hijacked Indian airliner. He said Pakistani action had proved that it believes in making supreme sacrifices to uphold principles. He said Pakistan's conduct was a contrast to the actions of certain powers in March this year when a Pakistan International Airlines plane was hijacked.

IRANIAN CHARGE COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN

GF281307 Karachi NAWA-E-WAQT in Urdu 25 Sep 81 p 1

[Excerpts] Islamabad, 24 Sep (APP/PPA) -- Iran will not participate in any talks on the Afghan issue until representatives of the Afghan people are included. This was stated by Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Pakistan Ganjidust at a press conference this morning at his residency.

Mr Ganjidust said that Iran's official stand is that the Afghan mujahids are the real representatives of the Afghan people and not Babrak Karmal and his clique. He said the Karmal administration is a puppet regime which has been imposed on the Afghan people and which we do not recognize.

In answer to a correspondent's question, Mr Ganjidust said that a high-level Iranian economic (?trade) delegation will visit Pakistan shortly to discuss cooperation between the two countries. He did not name any specific date.

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL STATEMENT ON AIR CRASH

LD301228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Statement released by the Provisional Presidential Council on 30 September]

[Text] Revolutionary and combatant people of Iran: It is with deep regret and sorrow that we inform you of the martyrdom of a number of the Islamic homeland's combatants in the crash of a plane carrying some of those injured and martyred during our recent victories. Initial investigations reveal that because of this tragic incident, four brave Islamic commanders in the war of right against wrong, Maj Gen martyr Valiollah Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Brig Gen martyr Seyyed Musa Namju, minister of defense; Brig Gen Pilot martyr Javad Fakuri, adviser to the acting chief of the Joint Staff; and brother martyr Rahim Kolahduz, acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, have joined Islam's bloodstained martyrs and sped to the eternal world. Necessary directives have been issued to the responsible officials to ascertain the cause of this incident.

The Provisional Presidential Council hereby expresses its condolences over the martyrdom of these devoted soldiers of the imam and the nation, to the master of the era and his rightful deputy, Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow never decrease, the people of Iran, the martyrs' relatives, the brave personnel of the armed forces and the Revolution Guards Corps and all the combatants on the battlefront of right against wrong.

We are sure that the Islamic combatants and the valiant fighters of the Islamic homeland will face the blasphemous enemy with greater firmness, despite the martyrdom of these valiants, and in continuing along the path of these martyrs will bring more glory and victories to Islam and the Islamic revolution. The people, by solidly participating in the election of a president, will prove that such martyrdoms only make them more determined to continue the Islamic revolution.

The Provisional Presidential Council, in order to maintain the great memories of these martyrs, hereby announces 3 days of public mourning beginning today, 30 September.

The ever-present inhabitants of Tehran will hold the funeral of the sacred and clean corpses of these martyrs at 1000 on 1 October. The procession will begin at the officers college on Imam Khomeyni Avenue and proceed toward the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

Also, at 0900 on 2 October, a memorial service for these martyrs and the martyr of the Islamic path, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Nezhad, will be held in the meeting place of the lovers of God, Tehran University.

With greetings upon the souls of all on the Islamic path and of the Islamic revolution's martyrs, and hoping for the victory of the valiants of the Islamic homeland on the battlefront of right against wrong.

[Signed] The Provisional Presidential Council of Iran

MORE THAN 70 REPORTEDLY KILLED IN CRASH

NC010755 Paris AFP in English 0749 GMT 1 Oct 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 1 Oct (AFP) -- More than 70 people were killed in the plane crash which claimed the lives of Iran's defense minister and chief of staff and two other leading military figures Tuesday night, one of the organisers of the funeral said here today.

Earlier today, the daily ISLAMIC REPUBLIC, organ of the ruling Islamic Republican Party, said the crash had killed 41 people.

FOREIGN MINISTER MUSAVI LEAVES FOR UN MEETING

GF301413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has left for New York with a delegation to attend the 36th UN General Assembly session. According to the same report, the foreign minister will speak to the assembly on 5 October. He will have short stops in Frankfurt and London on his way to New York.

Before his departure for New York, our nation's foreign minister gave this interview to our colleague:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Musavi, please tell us of the aim of your trip, now that you are about to depart for New York.

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The aim of the trip is to make our innocent voice heard by the world and also to make the world hear the message of the Islamic revolution. [Words indistinct] to establish clean contact with the nations which can have healthy relations with us in the future. Also, this is a move toward expanding our relations with the world at large. [Words indistinct] in the General Assembly's sessions nowadays the foreign ministers of most nations are present and naturally discussions among the ministers can be the basis of healthy future relations. (?In such circumstances) the discussions will be at a high level and then, God willing, we will follow these up in Tehran in the future.

[Question] (?Could you comment) about the election of a UN secretary general, to be held next month?

[Answer] Naturally, we will support the representatives that are put forward by the Third World and the oppressed nations. At the moment, some names seem to be under discussion. We are leaning toward a secretary for the United Nations who is from a culture, country and world compatible with ours, one who has a background similar to our revolution. This is what we are after. [Words indistinct] think that when the names of candidates are finalized [words indistinct] then we can talk more clearly on the subject.

[Question] Will you be meeting other foreign ministers as well as attending the general meeting?

[Answer] Definitely. As I mentioned, the foreign ministers of most countries are there, and naturally in the several days that we are in New York we will have the opportunity to establish contact with them. And as I said, not only will this enable us to put forward our positions on various matters and our (?analysis) of them, but also, God willing, we may be able to lay the foundations of larger moves in foreign policy.

[Question] Thank you. [end recording]

AFP Report

NC301846 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] Tehran, 30 Sep (AFP) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prior to departure for New York, today promised a United Nations address that will include indictments of the United States and Iraq, among a host of other topics.

Mr Musavi's scheduled address to the UN General Assembly will deal with "United States crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the war imposed by Iraq," as well as problems in the Gulf, the Indian Ocean, Afghanistan, Namibia and South African aggression, PARS NEWS AGENCY said.

Mr Musavi will protest the nomination of Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Ismat Kittani to preside over the General Assembly session, said PARS.

And he will denounce the U.S. for its refusal to grant visas to two Iranian deputy foreign ministers, a move he claims was destined to "prevent Iran from spreading its message on the international scene."

GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN IMF

LD302232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] Mr Nurbakhsh, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, when interviewed by PARS said that with the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs it has been decided that Iran will continue its membership of the IMF. He said: We will use international institutions as a means to express the views and stances adopted by our country and also to help countries under foreign domination to free themselves.

Mr Nurbakhsh also said: Freezing Iran's assets, as was done by the United States, cannot be explained either politically or economically and this act is not only against the Islamic revolution of Iran but is a threat to the countries taking steps to free themselves from imperialism. This act has meant a lack of trust in banking systems.

Concerning Iran's stance on the membership of the PLO in the IMF, he said: The PLO was recognized by the United Nations in 1978; according to the UN Charter, this organisation should be able to become a member of the IMF and the World Bank -- two organizations connected with the United Nations. Iran will support the right of the PLO and of the Palestinian nation to become a member of the IMF and the World Bank.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES ISLAMIC GUIDANCE MINISTER

GF291307 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Sep 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has received Islamic Guidance Minister 'Abdolmajid Ma'adikhah on the eve of his visit to Saudi Arabia to inspect the circumstances of Iranian pilgrims there. Mr Ma'adikhah received the necessary directives from the leading imam.

INTERIOR MINISTER OF AZARBAYJAN, SECURITY

GF301446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] Interior Minister Nikravesh, who has been in Western Azarbayjan visiting various parts of the province, said in a PARS interview: Western Azarbayjan Province is a special case. Considering the vigorous purge operations against illegal armed elements and the expulsion of the filthy East or West mercenary tribes, it was necessary for me to visit the province personally. While reviewing the problems of development projects, [further] development can be planned.

On the subject of the election, he said: The presidential election will be carried out in all parts of the country, including the war-stricken regions. Preparations have been completed. The attempts by the hypocrites have not affected the morale of our militant people.

Referring to security on election day, the interior minister said: The Interior Ministry has obviously taken steps and the necessary decisions for the election to take place smoothly.

MATERIALS CONCERNING INTERNAL OPPOSITION

Grenade Attack

GF301254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting a source in the Masjed-e Soleyman Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that U.S. agents threw a grenade at one of the resistance cells in Masjed-e Soleyman last night. Fortunately, the grenade did not explode. Three persons were arrested.

Hezbollahi Assassinated

GF301314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Unit report from Hamadan, at 0800 yesterday one of the active and devoted Hamadan Hezbollahi was martyred by four bullets fired by two hypocrite motorcyclists near his home. One of the hypocrites was arrested by the people and handed over to the Hamadan Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The other hypocrite managed to escape.

'Terrorists' Kill 3 in Gorgan

GF301305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] According to Central News Unit reports, the Gorgan Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced that three armed terrorists, in a preplanned operation, after stealing a car yesterday on Gorgan's Imam Khomeyni Street, opened fire on the defenseless people of the city. As a result, three defenseless Gorgan citizens were martyred and three others were wounded.

The report adds that due to people's resistance one of the hypocrites was killed. Two others who had a hand in this inauspicious calamity were arrested and handed over to the Gorgan Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Assassination Attempt

GF301527 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit correspondent in Bojnurd, two members of the Hezbollah resistance headquarters of the city were targets of an assassination attempt by two armed motorcyclists. One was martyred and the other wounded but his condition has been announced as satisfactory.

Safe House Raided

LD301912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] PARS report reports that today at noon, 13th District Committee guards captured another safe house belonging to the hypocrites' organization. The house is situated on Enqelab Street, between Hafez and (Vali-ye'ahd) streets.

During the confrontation, two guards from the 13th District Committee headquarters were wounded and taken to the hospital. One of the hypocrites was killed and another was wounded during the fighting. Apparently, two other hypocrites escaped. The same report says that a crowd gathered at the scene and shouted the slogans: "Death to hypocrites," and "Armed hypocrites should be executed."

Clash With Kurds in Kamyaran

LD301730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Kamyaran, reports that on 28 September, in (Dezvash) village, near Kamyaran, a number of counterrevolutionary members of Democratic and Rastegari minigroups planned an attack on a revolutionary institution. The automobile in which they were travelling was fired at by the Army of the Islamic Republic, as a result of which it crashed. One of the leaders of the defunct Democratic Party was killed; Shapur Piruzi, the leader of the defunct Democratic Party in the Kamyaran region, and Abdollah Sami, one of the leaders of the Rastegari group, were seriously injured; and a number of counterrevolutionaries were killed.

The Central News Unit report indicates that clashes with the defunct Democratic Party and Komeleh groups have been resumed on the Kamyaran-Shahin axis. Four Komeleh members and one Democratic Party member were killed in these clashes.

Peshmerga Kill 57 Troops

JN301906 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Bahdinani Kurdish 1420 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] Miando'ab -- After the offensive launched by the army and guards against the villages of (Majidkhan) and (Samat), the heroic party peshmerga valiantly confronted the enemy in a 12-hour battle, during which the peshmerga managed to kill 57 of the enemy troops, whose bodies were left on the battlefield.

According to reports, the peshmerga seized a large quantity of hardware and arms. One of the peshmerga of the forward forces and another of the peshmerga of the Bayan-110 forces were martyred in this operation. Four others were wounded. Our condolences to the martyrs' families.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 652, 653

652: Iraqi Losses in Abadan

LD291826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1639 GMT 29 Sep 81

[Communique 652 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "To God belongs all the forces of Heaven and earth and God is verily the almighty and the all-knowing." [Koranic verse]

Following up the miraculous operations of the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam, who through their power of faith, bravery and martyrdom truly proved that they are the righteous guardians of the Islamic revolution and Iran's territorial integrity, it is appropriate, during these destiny-making and fruitful days which coincide with the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Brig Gen Mansur Vatankhah, to think for a moment, to honor the memory of General Vatankhah and of those who sincerely sacrificed their lives for the same purpose. Glory to their pure souls. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran offers its congratulations and condolences to the family of General Vatankhah on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of this self-sacrificing soldier, and it is fully certain that as we have witnessed during the past year, we shall avenge the blood of this martyr from the coward and misled Saddamist infidels and Saddam.

Now, the events on the battlefields are brought to the attention of the steadfast and hero-rearing nation of Iran:

The victorious and pride-giving warriors on the vast fronts of Abadan are busy reconstructing and consolidating the captured positions on the Abadan-Mahshahr and Abadan-Ahvaz axes and organizing the forces of Islam.

Mopping-up operations continue around the Haffar bridge in the Abadan region. Dead bodies and war equipment belonging to the Ba'thist enemy are being removed from the region. Several Iraqi planes, which were flying at a high altitude, dropped cluster bombs on Abadan and as a result four inhabitants of the city were injured.

In the very remarkable and miraculous plan named Samen ol-A'mmeh, 1,700 prisoners were moved from the vast regions of Abadan to the rear of the battlefronts. Ninety tanks and personnel carriers, several military vehicles and antiaircraft guns were captured intact, and a large number of tanks, artillery, vehicles and military equipment were destroyed in the region. The enemy's losses in personnel are beyond imagination.

Saddam's mercenaries suffered the following losses and damage in the occupied part of Khuninshahr, inflicted by the combatants of the armed forces of Islam: The destruction of two machinegun positions, three assembly buildings and one mortar position and the killing of several enemy personnel by the accurate and nonstop firing of the brave combatants on the Dezful front. The enemy was prevented from digging trenches, their artillery fire was silenced and 30 landmines, planted by Iraqi mercenaries, were defused in the region. Hill 102 was taken by our forces. During these operations, one enemy tank and three vehicles were destroyed.

The self-sacrificing forces of Islam opened a volley of bullets on enemy equipment south of Karkheh Kur. As a result, one tank and one vehicle carrying six passengers were destroyed.

Our forces opened fire on an enemy assembly point on the Kermanshah front, wounding several enemy personnel and destroying three machinegun and two mortar positions and killing six servicemen.

Exchange of fire continued sporadically on all Marivan fronts. Sporadic exchange of fire is still continuing on the Kermanshah and Ilam fronts, along the fronts south of Ilam and in the middle areas. Our forces have fire superiority.

On 27 September, 74 red tulips of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and 1 red tulip of the gendarmerie gained the exalted status of martyrdom. They surrendered their lives to their creator and joined God. May their very blessed martyrdom be accepted by Almighty God and may their souls be happy.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

653: Battle Successes

LD301835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Communique 653 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. By offering our deepest and purest regards and congratulations to the pure souls of the great martyrs of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by offering our condolences and congratulations to the honorable families of these martyrs, we hereby report on the situation on the battlefronts and on operations of the self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past 48 hours for the attention of the heroic and grateful nation of Iran:

On the Abadan fronts, our pride-giving and self-sacrificing warriors opened intense artillery and other heavy-weapon fire on the positions and fortifications of the disintegrating forces of Iraq along the western bank of the Karun River. Heavy enemy ambulance traffic confirmed the enemy's heavy losses. Operations on these fronts halted last ditch efforts and activity by the enemy. Yesterday, the fast-flying and brave pilots of the air force and the Airborne Division bombed positions and fortifications of the Iraqi invading forces on the western side of the Karun River and inflicted considerable losses and damage on the enemy.

Yesterday several districts of Abadan came under artillery and long-range heavy-weapon fire from the Iraqi aggressive forces, resulting in some damage. Several of our dear compatriots, inhabitants of Abadan, were wounded.

Clashes and sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued on most of the western fronts. On the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front, artillery fire by the powerful combatants of the ground forces destroyed several enemy trenches and foxholes, several tanks and a bulldozer and also silenced the guns of the invading forces.

During the past few days, the Sayyid Sadiq garrison inside Iraqi territory came under intense artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; as a result, four vehicles, six buildings and a gasoline supply depot of the garrison were set ablaze and five ammunition dumps of the garrison were almost totally destroyed. The explosions of these dumbs could be heard for hours afterwards. No accurate information is yet available as to the number of enemy dead.

Combatants of the gendarmerie opened fire on enemy positions on the Shur-e Shirin front, inflicting some damage and killing and wounding several of the invading Iraqi forces.

Self-sacrificing combatants of the ground forces strongly defended their positions and fortifications and, by opening heavy fire on the positions of the Saddamist mercenaries, destroyed three vehicles and two cannons and prevented them from carrying out any form of operational activity. Our forces also succeeded in killing three enemy observers.

On the Dehloran fronts, our warriors inflicted effective blows on the enemy forces, destroying one tank, two vehicles and one heavy mortar.

Yesterday several aircraft of the Iraqi Armed Forces tried to make up for the repeated defeats of their troops, and as a last ditch effort violated the airspace of two of our cities in the south of the country. However, thanks to intense fire by our ever-vigilant air defense units, the enemy aircraft were forced to flee.

During battles on 28 September, 13 faithful and self-sacrificing combatants of the ground forces gained the exalted status of martyrdom. One member of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic was also martyred and joined the army of the martyrs. May their souls be happy.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI PRISONERS OF WAR ARRIVE IN TEHRAN 29 SEP

GF300514 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] The first group of Iraqi soldiers who were captured during the recent victories of Islam's army on the Abadan front arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon. More prisoners will arrive in Tehran sometime today. There are 1,750 Iraqi POW's from the Abadan front.

One of the Iraqi prisoners, from Karkuk, said the morale of the Iraqi Army is very low and that the army has completely collapsed as a result of the recent attack launched by the soldiers of Islam. This attack has resulted in many casualties, deaths and prisoners. He also said that a colonel serving as a unit commander is among the wounded.

More POW's Arrive 30 Sep

GF301541 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] A new group of Iraqi prisoners of war, numbering 450, who were captured during the heroic operations carried out by our Islamic forces along the Abadan front 3 days ago, was transferred to Tehran today.

Among them were a major who was commanding a battalion in the Saddamist army and reservist soldiers over 50 years of age. The group also included two Iraqi students who took refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRANIAN GUNBOAT REPORTEDLY SUNK OFF KHARK

NC291629 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 29 Sep 81

[Text] A sad report sent by the navy to the Free Voice of Iran states that the gunboat Milanian, which was bought about 4 years ago and was one of the most outstanding combat units of the Iranian Navy, has sunk. The saddest aspect of the boat sinking is that the expensive Iranian gunboat was not sunk in a sea battle or in a war mission but was sacrificed in the disorder reigning in the Iranian Armed Forces since the beginning of the illegal domination of Khomeyni's rule. The loss of the Milanian, which is now at the bottom of the Persian Gulf near Khark Island, has been kept a secret by the mullahs' government.

Some time ago reports were received on the lack of discipline and mutiny on the gunboat. The refusal to obey orders on problems of leave, (?the situation on the ship), the (?duties) of the personnel and discipline reached such proportions recently that one of the NCO's openly had a dispute with the gunboat's commander and prevented the control personnel from carrying out their duties. As a result, the gunboat, travelling at high speed, hit a (?rod) which was planted in the water and this split its keel. The lack of preparedness in relief forces and the disorder in the salvage operation rendered efforts to save the gunboat from sinking useless and finally about 10 days ago, 2 weeks after the incident, the Milanian sank.

JOURNALISTS VIEW IRANIAN POSITIONS IN ABADAN

GF290820 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Sep 81

[Text] PARS has reported that journalists from India, Japan, France, Nepal, [North] Korea, USSR, Libya, Yugoslavia and Spain arrived in Ahvaz yesterday to view the positions that the protectors of Islam have regained from the Saddamist aggressors on Abadan front and to make reports on the situation on the southern front following the recent victories of the defenders of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Official Killed

LD301226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Excerpt] PARS reports that Mr Majid Haddad-'Adel, a former acting governor general of Kermanshah Province who was accompanying a group of foreign journalists on a tour of the southern positions recaptured from the mercenary Armed Forces of Iraq, was severely injured in the head by an enemy's Katyusha rocket at 1645 yesterday. He died in Ahvaz' Sinai Hospital at 1800 yesterday.

According to this report, none of the journalists was injured in this incident.

NVOI SUPPORTS KHAMENE'I IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

TA291951 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 29 Sep 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Thwart the Plans of the Great Satan by Participating Actively in the Presidential Election"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Friday is the day on which the third of our homeland's presidential elections will be held. The leaders and government figures of the Islamic Republic, in messages to the heroic and mojahed Iranian nation, have called on it to participate actively in the presidential election.

Some other leaders and officials of the Islamic Republic, by appealing to our homeland's heroic and free people, have called upon them to participate actively in the presidential election and to deal another fatal blow on the great Satan and its fifth columnists in Iran, particularly the railroading liberals, the American Maoists, remnants of the former regime and other mercenaries of the aggressive America.

The true forces of the revolution and the parties, organizations and groups committed to the revolution, while endorsing the messages of the committed leaders of the popular and anti-imperialist revolution of the Iranian nation, consider participation in the election of our homeland's third president to be a revolutionary and popular duty of every struggling and free Iranian. When it is said that defeat in the election is the defeat of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this is an undeniable fact. The aim of world-devouring America and the multicolored counterrevolution in planting bombs, killing Iran's government figures, creating a climate of tension, instigating incidents and armed clashes is only one thing: striking at the Islamic authority and replacing it with a so-called moderate and middle-of-the-road government favored by Reagan.

For this reason, our homeland's struggling people should pay deep attention to the issue of active participation in the presidential election, and should strive with all power to neutralize the plan of the great Satan, the railroading liberals, the promonarchists, remnants of the former regime and other agents and hirelings of world-devouring America in preventing the active participation of the people in the election and in disrupting the presidential election. Those who by killing the president, the prime minister and many other officials and government figures of the Islamic authority tried to bring the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran to its knees now, after having their treacherous plan foiled are attempting to promote their treacherous and criminal aim by disrupting the election and defeating it, a desire which without doubt they will take to the grave.

As world-devouring U.S. imperialism and its multicolored agents in Iran have not desisted from incitement, plots, creating disturbances and armed clashes in this and that corner of the country, including Tehran, on the eve of the election, inevitably they will also not refrain from resorting to tricks, ruses and condemned crimes on the day of holding the third round of our homeland's presidential election. It is incumbent upon the true forces of the revolution, the ever-present people on the scene of the struggle and particularly the security forces and the revolution guards to rise with utmost power in defense of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and strive to preserve order and thwart the futile attempts of the great Satan and its Iranian lackeys.

A positive development that we are witnessing in the course of holding the third of our homeland's presidential elections is the withdrawal of the other presidential candidates in favor of Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, Tehran's Friday imam, which by itself is a positive measure in preventing the dissipation of votes during the presidential election. The free Iranian people and all the true revolutionary forces regard Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i as an irreconcilable and stubborn struggler against world-devouring U.S. imperialism and as committed to the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line.

With awareness and high revolutionary morale, in the name of safeguarding the popular and anti-imperialist revolution, and by the most extensive participation in the third presidential election, the plans of the great Satan and its Iranian agents and mercenaries can be thwarted.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH ENERGY MINISTER

GF301438 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Soviet ambassador in Iran, met with energy Minister Ghafuri this morning. The meeting was attended by Mr (?Kerachiyan), managing director of the Tavanir Company, and the managing director of Tekhnopromeksport, the contractor building the Ahvaz Ramin power station.

The energy minister described the Islamic Republic's policy of nonreliance on the superpowers and national efforts to achieve economic and technical self-sufficiency, as well as struggle against international imperialism led by the criminal United States. He asked for technical cooperation between the two nations within the framework of this policy. The energy minister also requested that work be resumed on Ahvaz's Ramin power station by the Soviet contractors.

According to the report, the Soviet ambassador expressed gratitude for the meeting and announced his country's readiness to cooperate in the fields of water power and other technical and scientific venues. It was decided that work to complete the Ramin power station will begin as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MEETS ROMANIAN COUNTERPART

LD302156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Sep 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has announced that the deputy chairman of the Romanian Council of Ministers, accompanied by the Romanian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Mohammad Salamati at the ministry building this morning. During this meeting, Mr Salamati, while referring to the "Neither East, nor West" policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reiterated that Iran gives priority to our country's agriculture. He said: We believe that progress made in this field will strengthen the foundations of our political independence. This year our agricultural output is very high, which is a sign of the hard work of our farmers. We would like to use your experiences in order to achieve self-sufficiency. We also would like to increase the cooperation with your country in agricultural matters.

The Romanian deputy chairman, while confirming the remarks made by the minister of agriculture, said: Romania believes in the principle of equality among nations and mutual respect. The Romanian nation understands the meaning of dependence and oppression and highly respects the struggle of your country's people. He added: We feel sympathy toward the struggle of the Iranian nation and praise your efforts for maintaining the independence of your country. We would like to expand our relations with your country in every field, particularly in the area of agriculture.

According to our correspondent, at the end of this meeting the Romanian deputy chairman invited the minister of agriculture and rural development to visit Romania.

CORRECTION TO NABAVI INTERVIEW ON ECONOMY

The following correction should be made to the item entitled "Nabavi Claims Economic Problems Solved," published in the 30 September South Asia DAILY REPORT on page I 4:

In paragraph six, on line five, substitute the figure "$4 billion" for "$4 trillion."